

Abstract of the Disclosure

A computer-controlled laser etching probe etches a firearm-identifying indicia such as a barcode encoded serial number into the barrel and breech of a bore of a firearm.

Owner registration data coupled with the serial number is stored in a central database. A

computer-controlled scanner reads the barcode from a slug or casing or a bullet fired from an

etched firearm for comparison with registration data in the central database, thereby identifying

the registered owner of the firearm from which the bullet was fired. Crime scene data including

GPS data identifying the location of the crime, barcoded slugs or casings, registration data

associated with the identified firearm, and the last known residence of the registered owner along

with derived data may be used to determine a probability map of the location of a criminal

suspect.